THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries do not set up any food processing units on their own. However, financial assistance under the Plan schemes is extended to Non-Governmental Organisations, Co-operatives, Private Industries and Public Sector Undertakings, for setting up food processing units including those based on agriculture and in rural areas.

Value addition to fruits and vegetables

1098. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while India is the largest producer of fruits and vegetables with 132 million tonnes,its processing level is hardly 2 to 3 per cent, as compared to 83 per cent in Malaysia, 72 per cent in Thailand, 70 per cent in UK and 50 per cent in Brazil; and

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of utilizing the immense scope for value addition, so that our farmers get adequate price for their produce and country's exports also get the boost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The processing level of fruits and vegetables in the country is estimated to be around 2% of production.

(b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries seeks to enhance value addition for farm produce and thereby higher value realisation to farmers through assistance under its Plan Schemes to Private Sector Industries, Non-Governmental Organizations, Co-operatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Human Resource Development Institutions, Research and Development Institutions etc. Besides, a number of policy initiatives have been taken to promote this sector.

Employment opportunities in FPIs

†1099. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that expansion in the Food Processing Industries in the country has been made during the past few years;

(b) if so, the percentage of the total workers in the country provided employment in the Food Processing Industries by the end of March, 2002; and

(c) the installed capacity of processing fruits and vegetables of the industrial units set up till that date and what percentage this capacity constitutes to the total production of fruits and vegetables in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) According to a study carried out by the National Council for Applied Economics and Research, the food processing industry grew at the rate of 5.8% per annum on the basis of estimates of value added at 1993-94 prices, during the period 1996-97 to 2001-2002.

(b) Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors and as such the information regarding percentage of the total workers is not maintained centrally. However, as per the study conducted by the National Council for Applied Economics and Research, the direct employment in the food processing industry, as of March 2002 was estimated at 75.59 lakhs.

(c) As stated in reply to part (b) above, Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors. Information regarding the capacity installed in the unorganised sector is not available. The installed capacity for processing of fruits and vegetables at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan in the organised sector was 21.5 lakh tonnes. The utilization of fruits and vegetables for processing is estimated to be around 2% of the total production.

Expansion of FPIs

†1100. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.